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turn to Karl Marx as the only competent guide. The Marxian Materialistic Theory of History, and the Theory of Class Struggle, together with the Theory of Surplus Labor, point the way which Sociology and Political Economy must follow if they are to take a place as modern sciences of the post-Darwinian epoch. T. B. VEBLEN.

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*The Labor Question in Britain.* By PAUL DE ROUSIERS, with a preface by HENRI DE TOURVILLE. Translated by F. L. D. HERBERTSON. London: Macmillan & Co., 1896. 8vo. pp. xxvi + 393.

A WORK in descriptive economics which is not merely an amorphous aggregation of facts, but in which facts are made to set forth an important economic idea—such a work is almost a rarity, and deserves to be treated with respect. M. de Rousier's description of the English industrial system is designed throughout to show the dominant tendency in modern industrial evolution and to teach the lesson that prosperity for the laborer lies in adjusting his conduct to the great industrial changes of the age, not in trying to resist them. The small workshop and hand labor are being replaced by machine production in vast establishments. The laborer whose work may be at any moment taken from him by a revolution of this sort need not be ruined by it if he can quickly find a place in the new system, if, that is, he has avoided a specialization so narrow that he is unfit for any but his accustomed work. His education should develop his power of initiative, making him a resourceful man, rather than a skillful craftsman. The industries of England have been chosen to illustrate this idea on the ground that the development of industry is there most advanced and that Englishmen have shown an unparalleled facility in adapting themselves to changes. This fortunate characteristic is thought to result from the superiority of English education. Men in England, more than elsewhere, it is said, are expected to rely upon themselves, and "the same difference may be observed in the education of children. French parents . . . find it hard to treat their children as men, would fain keep them children. . . . In England the chief aim is to accustom children to life as they will find it later. . . . Workmen are treated in the same way. The object is not to make good workmen, *who will remain workmen*, but

to educate them into capable and independent men, and to develop them by all possible means, without asking what will be the immediate result of such development" (p. 374).

A variety of industries, from the small shop, still surviving, to the great factory, are described for the purpose of showing the successive stages of evolution and the unlike fate of the resourceful artisan and his conservative or slow-witted, even though skillful, neighbor.

The book is at all points suggestive, and M. de Rousiers presents his facts with a Frenchman's skill as to clearness and logical arrangement, but it may perhaps be thought he has committed an error no less characteristic in regarding too little the native English temperament and too much the English system of education in explaining the British artisan's adaptability. If English workmen are, as he says, superior to all others in initiative and resource, the fact cannot be regarded as resulting from immediate educational influences. If this is really an educational result, the educational process has been a process of ages.

A. P. WINSTON.

*La legislation en 1895, and La conciliation et l'arbitrage devant les parlements actuels (Documents sociologiques; extraits de la Revue catholique des institutions et du droit).* By HECTOR LAMBRECHTS. Grenoble: Joseph Baratier, 1896. 8vo. pp. xxix + 36.

M. LAMBRECHTS here summarizes in a few pages the work of European legislators last year, so far as it relates to social questions at present of general interest. In this he has performed a commendable undertaking by no means skillfully.

The purpose of extreme condensation has frequently been carried out by omitting the facts of vital importance and offering to the reader a mere residuum of names and dates. For instance, the page given up to the English factory act of 1895 names the subject to which each section of the act refers but permits no suspicion as to the substantial content of the act. The remaining two pages referring to England give nothing but an empty enumeration of titles of bills, the names of their authors and the dates at which each passed the first reading, etc. Few of the bills mentioned attained any decided value by finally passing. It would evidently have been better to pre-